

WHOLE NO. 1745 WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1944

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FACING THE FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

All the way from Ada, Oklahoma, comes a request in this morning's mail from a "good old citizen" who is interested in what labor has done towards winning the war. It's a pleasure to accommodate Mr. Leasure, the President of the Ada Trade and Labor Union, so here goes.

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In these training camps, the men and women of labor sent more than two million of their sons, who are now battling overseas against the enemies of our country and doing the heavy work.

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AFL Preserves Three-Power Program To Help Negroes Gain Better Break

Cleveland, APL President: William Green offered a three-way program to the creation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to make American democracy a living reality for American Negroes.

This program, if put into effect at the close of the war, will go far toward removing the barriers which now stand in the way of progress of Negro citizens. Mr. Green said that regardless of race, color or creed, every American, willing and able to work, should be afforded the opportunity for a good job and good pay at that he can provide a decent standard of living for himself and his family.

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Green Challenges Legion In Labor

Highlights of Green's Address

Chicago—Highlights of AFL President William Green's address before the convention of the American Legion at the Chicago Convention follow:

It is our responsibility and our highest duty, by the days and weeks and months to come, to look every effort to bring forth a final victory over by supporting our fighting forces to the limit here at the home front.

It is also our responsibility and our great privilege to make full preparation for the early return of our servicemen and to provide them with every opportunity to make up for lost time, to earn a good living when they return to civilian status and to build a future for themselves and their families.

Let me emphasize as strongly as I can that the American Federation of Labor has fought, is fighting and will continue to fight to guarantee these opportunities for the servicemen of our nation.

As a result, the famed Nazi Luftwaffe has been blasted from the skies over Europe and the Allied planes have left command of the air. The Japs have been driven to cover—those that still remain.

When the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor, they dealt what was considered a fatal blow to America's Navy. Yet today, due to the efforts of American workers, our fighting fleet has been tripled in size. The Navy now has more than 3,500 combat ships, the greatest armada in world history.

When the Nazi U-boats started sinking our shipping in huge quantities in the Atlantic, many Americans despaired of our ever getting enough supplies to our Allies to keep them from being ready to join them. Today the ocean has been almost swept clean of enemy submarines and our merchant fleet, due to the efforts of American shipyard workers, has more than 2,000 vessels. These constitute a veritable bridge of ships which keep the fighting forces of the United Nations fully supplied with equipment on all fronts.

Mr. Green demanded the widespread acceptance and blind praise for the responsible for injustice and denial of equality of economic, political and educational opportunity to Negroes.

"I know of only one effective weapon with which ignorance and prejudice can be combated and finally crushed," he said. "That is the light of education. Education may appear to be a slow process, but it is the only one that is permanent. Attempts to force it on people to do what is best for them in the end will be for naught. It is the only way to the conquest of the need and desirability of such action by education can only end in disaster.

"The progress of education is the only educational process necessary to the progress of the American people in America more than any other factor in the progress of the American people."

Addressing the Legion's annual convention here, Mr. Green pointed out that the Legion's program is in complete agreement on many basic principles and policies among those he listed applicable to American institutions and the American people.

He emphasized that the AFL will be glad to cooperate with the Legion in helping to establish a peace-time economy which will allow to veterans, to workers, to farmers and to business men alike the best opportunities to enjoy and to improve the way of life.

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Mr. Green said that the invasion which has been carried on so brilliantly in Africa, Europe and the Pacific started right here in America—on the airplane factories and shipyards of the United States.

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Urges Passage Of Health Insurance To Raise U. S. Physical Standards

Washington, D. C.—Appalling deficiencies in the nation's health care exposed by the Selective Service system's rejection of more than 4,000,000 men as physically fit for military service, are being remedied by adoption of the War Relocation Administration's standards for the health of American youth.

Lab Leaders Ask Patterson Give Eye-Witness Report In War Fronts

Washington, D. C.—Eye-witness reports on the progress of the war in Europe were presented by two labor leaders, recently returned from the front lines, to the War Relocation Administration at a dinner in the several hundred room hotel.

Push Construction Action Now To Promote Recovery, Keenan Urges

Dallas, Tex.—Demanding a post-war policy of "Peace and Plenty" instead of peace and poverty, WPA Vice Chairman Joseph D. Keenan told the national convention of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union that the construction industry holds the key to recovery.

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CRUIKSHANK TO DIRECT AFL SECURITY DRIVE

Washington, D. C.—Nelson H. Cruikshank, formerly an official of the War Relocation Commission, will direct the new security drive of the AFL, according to a statement by the union's national executive committee.

Labor In Italy Abjures Politics

Rome, Italy.—A resolution to keep labor out of Italian politics was adopted by the Italian labor groups on a program for the betterment of workers, regardless of their political affiliation, was adopted by the congress of all labor organizations of liberated Italy at a meeting here.

Canadian CIO Chemical Locals Flock To New AFL Union In A Body

Cleveland.—Every CIO chemical local they would be better served by workers' union in Canada has come over to the new AFL union, which opened with the presentation of an AFL charter by William Green to the newly chartered chemical workers' union.

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